



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release OCTOBER 2, 1960

SHARP DECLINE NOTED IN DUCK STAMP SALE FOR 1959-60 HUNTING SEASON

Duck stamp sales for 1959-60 hunting season totaled 1,628,365, the Department of the Interior reported today. This is 537,197 below the sales of the previous year when 2,165,562 stamps were sold.

Data available to the Fish and Wildlife Service show the sales to be the lowest since the 1944-1945 season when 1,487,029 stamps were distributed to hunters, conservationists and philatelists. The record year was 1955-1956 with its all-time high of 2,369,940.

The drop in sales was not unexpected. In this fiscal period, the price of the duck stamp rose from \$2 to \$3. On the basis of past experience, it was known this would cause some individuals to discontinue purchases. However, there was the additional factor of unfavorable conditions on the breeding grounds which resulted in forecasts of poorer flights and poorer hunting last fall.

As a result, a considerable number of people--not sufficiently dyed-in-the-wool duck hunters who go regardless--decided to pass up duck gunning and did not buy stamps. Although this reduced the number of duck stamps sold, it also had its beneficial aspects--the ducks benefitted from the reduction of gun pressure.

The sale of duck stamps is the best available index of the number and distribution of waterfowl hunters throughout the country. The 1959-1960 sales by flyway follow, with the 1958-1959 sales in parentheses:

Atlantic Flyway 233,246 (325,817), down 92,571; Central Flyway 370,776 (501,672), down 130,896; Mississippi Flyway 707,649 (931,544), down 223,895; Pacific Flyway 310,861 (396,809), down 85,948.

Sales by the Philatelic Agency were 5,833--down 3,887 from the 9,720 of the previous year. However, during recent months, there were 8,800 of the 1958-1959 stamps sold, chiefly to philatelists.

California, which has held first place in duck stamp sales in recent years, was replaced by Minnesota. Minnesota purchased 118,624 stamps compared with 147,895 the previous year; California purchased 114,494 compared with 161,068; Texas, 107,010 compared with 145,079; Illinois, 85,902 against the previous 108,456; Michigan, 77,553 against 110,260 in the previous year.

The first stamps went on sale on August 14, 1934, as the result of legislation passed by Congress in March of that year. The price of that stamp was \$1. In 1949, Congress passed legislation raising the price to \$2; the \$3 price became effective July 1, 1959. The sales in 1934 amounted to 635,000 stamps. In 1939, sales reached the million mark. The sales, which were less than a million and a half during World War II, jumped to 1,725,505 in 1946 and then to 2,016,819 in 1947. Four times since then, sales have dropped below the two million mark--in 1948, 1950, 1951, and 1960.

A record of the sales by States is attached.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU OF SPORT FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING STAMP SALES - 1959-60 SERIES
JULY 1, 1959 to JUNE 30, 1960

ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Connecticut..... | 6,970 |
| Delaware..... | 6,683 |
| District of Columbia..... | 1,518 |
| Florida..... | 23,254 |
| Georgia..... | 4,926 |
| Maine..... | 9,704 |
| Maryland..... | 15,103 |
| Massachusetts..... | 17,022 |
| New Hampshire..... | 3,742 |
| New Jersey..... | 16,925 |
| New York..... | 52,390 |
| North Carolina..... | 19,685 |
| Pennsylvania..... | 27,525 |
| Rhode Island..... | 2,372 |
| South Carolina..... | 8,506 |
| Vermont..... | 3,471 |
| Virginia..... | 12,577 |
| West Virginia..... | 654 |
| Puerto Rico..... | 219 |

Subtotal..... 233,246

MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Alabama..... | 10,696 |
| Arkansas..... | 38,910 |
| Illinois..... | 85,902 |
| Indiana..... | 31,111 |
| Iowa..... | 51,040 |
| Kentucky..... | 9,588 |
| Louisiana..... | 66,734 |
| Michigan..... | 77,553 |
| Minnesota..... | 118,624 |
| Mississippi..... | 13,837 |
| Missouri..... | 53,851 |
| Ohio..... | 27,961 |
| Tennessee..... | 21,184 |
| Wisconsin..... | 100,658 |

Subtotal..... 707,649

CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Colorado..... | 31,507 |
| Kansas..... | 53,903 |
| Montana..... | 24,752 |
| Nebraska..... | 49,901 |
| New Mexico..... | 5,690 |
| North Dakota..... | 26,473 |
| Oklahoma..... | 31,609 |
| South Dakota..... | 32,181 |
| Texas..... | 107,010 |
| Wyoming..... | 7,750 |

Subtotal..... 370,776

PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Alaska..... | 9,223 |
| Arizona..... | 7,089 |
| California..... | 114,494 |
| Idaho..... | 28,259 |
| Nevada..... | 9,284 |
| Oregon..... | 51,302 |
| Utah..... | 24,779 |
| Washington..... | 66,420 |
| Hawaii..... | 11 |

Subtotal..... 310,861

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| ATLANTIC FLYWAY STATES... | 233,246 |
| MISSISSIPPI FLYWAY STATES... | 707,649 |
| CENTRAL FLYWAY STATES.. | 370,776 |
| PACIFIC FLYWAY STATES... | 310,861 |
| PHILATELIC AGENCY... | 5,833 |

GRAND TOTAL... 1,628,365